Foodgrains storage in North-east

913. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made by Railway authorities for improving foodgrains stock position in Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; and

(b) whether there is any plan for opening ex-godowns at nearest railway heads for lifting their foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The seven States of N.E. Region i.e. Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are served by Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge rail network of Northeast Frontier Railway. Appreciating the difficult geographical location and requirement of these North Eastern States, foodgrain movement to N.F. Railway feeding these States is planned and executed by the railways in close coordination with Ministry of Food and Food Corporation of India. To ensure availability of foodgrains, foodgrain rakes loaded from North India are monitored throughout their journey till the same are placed and unloaded. As a result of this it has been possible to induct FCI foodgrains to meet the requirement of seven States in the N.E. Region on a monthly basis as under:

Month	Unloading in N.E. Region
April, 96	1.46 lakh tonnes
May, 96	1.71 " "
June, 96	1.61 " "
July, 96	1.39 " "
Aug., 96	1.43 " "
Sept., 96	1.29 " "
Oct., 96	1.48 " "

However, attempts for further induction of foodgrains into the N.E. Region are often frustrated by factors like bandhs, strikes, agitations, accidents, and slides, law & order problems as well as unloading performance by FCI.

Foodgrains are removed by FCI/State Governments from railway goods sheds/sidings into their own godowns. There are no plans for opening godowns by Railways at rail Heads. However, FCI has plans for increasing godown capacity in Meghalaya (5000 MT), Manipur (2500 MT), Tripura (5000 MT), Nagaland (10,000 MT) and Mizoram (3340 MT).

Coordination of Central Railways with Rice Mill Associations in Andhra Pradesh

914. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Central Railways have efficient and regular coordination with various Rice Mill Associations in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, at what level do these meetings take place;

(c) how often do such meetings take place;

(d) whether there is any effort to improve this coordination; and

(e) the steps proposed in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) The traffic offering of Andhra Pradesh Rice Mills is of seasonal nature (from August to November) for the period for which export permits are issued by Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation. This traffic is cleared as per the registeration of indents at various stations and unloading performances at the terminal and other operational constraints including unloading like competing traffic on FCI account or other Government Agencies and congenstion at Terminals.

In case of any problem various Rice Mills Associations Members and office bearers meet the concerned officers at Divisional and Headquarters levels on South Central Railway on need basis.

Tapping of Dairy Potential

915. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to tap the immense dairy potential in the country; and